

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONFIGURING COMPUTER  
APPLICATIONS AND DEVICES USING INHERITANCE**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method using inheritance for the configuration, management,  
5 and/or monitoring of computer applications and devices via a computer network are  
disclosed. The method generally comprises determining a hierarchical tree structure  
based upon locations of devices in a network topology, each device being a node in the  
hierarchical tree structure, determining policies for each node in the hierarchical tree  
structure to be enforced by an agent corresponding to each node, the agent being in  
10 communication with the device and the resources corresponding to the device, and  
communicating the policy to the corresponding agent, wherein the policies corresponding  
to the resources of each device are selectively inherited along the hierarchical tree  
structure of the network directory.

09/09/2004 10:00:00